

REMARKS

The Examiner has reiterated the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibson. With respect to claim 1 the Examiner admits that Gibson does not explicitly disclose "a correlation meter for each sound channel of the surround sound stage image that has a corresponding sound channel to form a stereo sound source", but asserts that since Gibson discloses in Fig. 7a "spheres corresponding to selected channels are arranged in a 'V' formation" and the whole display is scaled by X and Y-axis, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the scale corresponding to each sphere as corresponding to a correlation meter to that channel in order to measure the magnitude of the sphere, with the line shown in Fig. 5 being considered a scale. The Examiner further states that the edge of the sphere qualifies as a marker. It should be noted that the spheres of Gibson have visual characteristics that are interdependent: size = amplitude/frequency; x-location = signal balance or pan control; y-location = frequency; z-location = volume/amplitude; texture = effects/waveform information; and density = amplitude. Therefore, size relates to apparent space taken up by the sound in the mix, with spheres representing bass instruments taking up more space than treble instruments. Size of the spheres is not related in way to correlation between the two channels that make up the stereo pair, so the edges of the spheres do not correspond to the markers as claimed by Applicants.

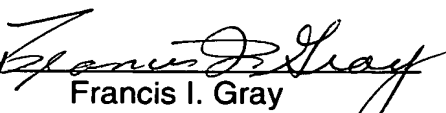
Although Applicants still do not agree with the Examiner's characterization of Gibson as it relates to Applicants' invention recited in claim 1, Applicants have

amended claim 1 to recite that the surround sound state image is "two-dimensional" and that the correlation meter scale is "curvilinear", corresponding to what is shown in each of the drawing Figures and their equivalents. Applicants merely exclude three-dimensional representations as shown in Gibson. Gibson does not teach or suggest a two-dimensional sound stage image, or a curvilinear correlation meter scale. Thus claim 1 as amended and claims 2 and 7-9 dependent therefrom are deemed to be allowable as being nonobvious to one of ordinary skill in the art over Gibson.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks allowance of claims 1-15 is urged, and such action and the issuance of this case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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